



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Advancing Aviation Sector in India

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) investing Rs. 98,000 crore (2019-2024) in airport infrastructure to meet growing air traffic demands.

- **Safety oversight** is ensured through regular surveillance and audits by the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- Emphasis on **sustainable aviation, encouraging carbon neutrality and adoption of green energy at airports**.
- The MoCA is committed to achieving **Sustainable Aviation** in collaboration with the [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#), following the principles and provisions of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#).
- MoCA strives to achieve the same under the [National Civil Aviation Policy 2016](#), which aims to **limit CO₂ emissions in Indian aviation**.

Positive Impact of Centre's Mandated Health Spending

The Study in *Public Health for All journal* reveals the positive impact of the Centre's mandated spending on health through the [National Health Mission \(NHM\)](#) over 15 years.

- NHM linked funding to **compliance with the Central government's schemes, encouraging States to invest more in primary health care**.
- Increased allocation in States' health budgets due to NHM's conditional allocation.
- **Target of 8% of the total State budget for health remains unachieved**.
- NHM's efforts contributed to a decline in [infant mortality rate](#) and **reduced disparities in per capita public spending** across States.
- Study recommends States develop concrete plans for **primary health care delivery**.
- Urges Centre to establish a **National Database of Health System Cost to estimate comprehensive primary health care expenses**.
- Realistic cost estimates for delivering healthcare and assessing cost-per-year of [quality-adjusted life year \(QALY\)](#) gained through primary healthcare interventions are crucial for progress.

Read more: [National Health Mission \(NHM\)](#)

India Bans Non-Basmati White Rice Exports to Stabilize Domestic Market

The Indian government has imposed an immediate ban on the export of [non-basmati white rice](#), except for certain ongoing shipments.

- This variety of rice had accounted for **25% of the total rice exports from the country**.
- This step was taken in response to the **11.5% increase in domestic rice prices** in 2022 and a subsequent 35% surge in **exports of this rice** variety during 2022-23.
 - The Ministry attributed this surge in exports to various factors, including high international prices driven by **geopolitical scenarios, El Nino influences, and extreme climatic conditions in other rice-producing countries**.
- The ban aims to stabilize the domestic market and ensure adequate availability of non-basmati

white rice for Indian consumers, while **export policies for basmati rice and non-basmati parboiled rice remain unchanged.**

Read more: [Basmat Rice](#), [El Nino](#), [Extreme climatic conditions](#)

Barges Navigating Sundarbans Allegedly Trigger Erosion and Disrupt Siltation



The **Sundarbans**, a fragile ecosystem comprising around **100 islands shared by humans and wildlife**, is facing threats as allegations arise that barges transporting **fly ash from Indian power plants to Bangladesh** are causing erosion along river banks.

- While the [Inland Waterways Authority of India](#) **refutes the claims, locals report increased erosion near inhabited islands.**
- **Balancing economic interests and conservation** becomes crucial, prompting authorities to assess the impact of barge traffic on the Sundarbans' unique environment and protect it for the future.

Read more: [Sundarbans](#), [Inland Waterways Authority of India](#), [Fly ash](#)

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